

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

1. US SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND LEFT ROMANIA MAY 25 AFTER A TWO AND A HALF DAY VISIT DURING WHICH HE MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANGELO MICULESCU, PRIME MINISTER MANEA MANESCU AND OTHER RANKING AGRICULTURE AND TRADE OFFICIALS. US AMBASSADOR O. RUDOLPH AGGREY ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY ON A NUMBER OF VISITS TO AGRICULTURAL COMPLEXES.

2. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED BY THE SECRETARY AND BY MINISTER MICULESCU, NOTED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS "WERE CARRIED OUT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, DURING WHICH A MUTUAL DESIRE WAS EXPRESSED TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND ROMANIAN PEOPLE". IN THE COMMUNIQUE THE TWO
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MINISTERS STRESSED A MUTUAL INTEREST TO FURTHER DEVELOP DIRECT COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH POSSIBLE EXCHANGES OF TECHNOLOGY IN ANIMAL AND PLANT PRODUCTION, OF SEEDS AND BREEDING STOCK AND INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. NOTED WAS THE US PROVISION OF CCC CREDITS IN FISCAL YEAR 1978 FOR ROMANIAN PURCHASE OF 100,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEANS. SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN

TO PROVISION OF FURTHER CCC CREDITS FOR PURCHASE OF 150,000-250,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEANS DURING FY 1979 SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS FOR THAT YEAR. FORMS OF COOPERATION FOR INCREASED HOG PRODUCTION, INCLUDING IMPORT OF ROMANIAN PORK PRODUCTS INTO THE US AND THE IMPORT OF US PROTEIN FEED PRODUCTS INTO ROMANIA, WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW GRANTED TO THE ROMANIAN PRESS AGENCY, AGERPRES, SECRETARY BERGLAND SPEAKING ABOUT FUTURE COOPERATION SAID, "I THINK THE PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE INCREASED COLLABORATION IN MANY AREAS... WE CAN LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM EACH OTHER. THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA HAS A FINE RELATIONSHIP GOING (WITH THE US). THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ESPECIALLY HAS HAD MANY DEALINGS AND EXCHANGES WITH UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES". HE DESCRIBED PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS "OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE VISIT OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS THAT I AND MY DELEGATION HAVE COME TO ROMANIA... WE BELIEVE THAT THE VISIT OF OUR TWO PRESIDENTS WILL LEAD TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS."

4. PRIOR TO THE ROMANIAN PORTION OF THE TRIP THE SECRETARY VISITED NORWAY, THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND AND HUNGARY. HE WILL VISIT THE UNITED KINGDOM BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON. GARNETT

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